

December 13th, 2020
3rd Sunday in Advent



8470 Landen Drive
Maineville, Ohio

*At Abiding Word
We gather around the Word (worship);
We grow in the Word (education);
And we share the Word with the world (outreach).*



Abiding Word Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wisconsin Synod
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Welcome!

To all who have gathered here this morning we welcome you in the name of Christ our Lord. Through him we have access to God in boldness and confidence. (Ephesians 3:12) As a safety precaution there will be no after service coffee or refreshments. If you would like to socialize responsibly before and after the service, please use the fellowship hall. To allow for social distancing, please don't linger in front of the kitchen and bathroom.

Holy Communion

Our worship service is open to all. The forgiveness received in the Lord's Supper is proclaimed to all throughout the service. However, the Bible teaches that the Lord's Supper is to be received by those who have been instructed about its meaning and the unity it expresses. *For this reason, we ask that guests speak with the Pastor before partaking of the Holy Supper.* So that you can be sure that unity of faith and teaching exists we invite you to participate in a Bible Information Class. This class will prepare you to receive the Lord's Supper with us. Please contact Pastor about class times.

Lutheran Worship

The Lutheran church is a liturgical church. Lutherans believe that the gospel is not only the good news that Jesus has saved sinners, but also the power God uses to create and strengthen faith in Jesus. Lutheran worship places the gospel in central focus in an order of service called the liturgy. Through the sermon, Lord's Supper, in specially selected Bible readings, and in carefully crafted songs, prayers, and confessions, the liturgy points to Jesus as the Savior of all.

As we adjust to live worship

We are taking many precautions to make our regular Sunday service as safe as possible. In keeping with our Governor's mandate, please wear a facemask while inside the building. Masks are available on the table by the bulletin announcements, if you forget your mask. If you socialize before or after the service please do so outside or in the fellowship hall. If you have any suggestions or concerns regarding worship or ministry please inform Pastor or our elder, Ken Leib.

OPENING HYMN: HOSANNA TO THE COMING LORD



1 Ho - san - na to the com - ing Lord! Ho - san - na
 2 O Sav - ior, with pro - tect - ing care A - bide in
 3 O Ad - vent King, our sins for - give; Come in our
 4 Then in the last and dread - ful day, When earth and



to the in - car - nate Word! To Christ, Cre - a - tor, Sav -
 this your house of prayer, Where we your part - ing prom -
 lives and hearts to live, And let our hum - ble souls
 heav'n shall melt a - way, Your flock, re - deemed from sin -



ior, King Let earth, let heav'n ho - san - na sing.
 ise claim, As - sem - bled in your sa - cred name.
 be - come A tem - ple wor - thy of your name.
 ful stain, Shall swell the sound of praise a - gain.

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, abr., alt.

Tune: VOM HIMMEL HOCH (LM) Schumann, *Geistliche lieder aufs new gebessert*, Leipzig, 1539.

Stand

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

P: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

C: **Lord, have mercy on us.**

Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER AND PRAISE

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

GOD'S OWN SON MOST HOLY *sung in place of* GLORY BE TO GOD



1 God's own Son most ho - ly Came a ser - vant low - ly,
2 Still he comes with - in us; Still his voice would win us
3 Thus, if we have known him And will not dis - own him
4 Those who then are loy - al Find a wel - come roy - al.



Came to live a - mong us, Came to suf - fer for us,
From the sins that hurt us, Would to truth con - vert us
Nor have loved him cold - ly But will trust him bold - ly,
Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, From our sins re - lease us.



Bore the cross to save us, Hope and free - dom gave us.
From our fool - ish er - rors Ere he comes in ter - rors.
He will then re - ceive us, Heal us, and for - give us.
Let us here con - fess you Till in heav'n we bless you.

Text: Johann Horn, c. 1490–1547, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: GOTTES SOHN IST KOMMEN (66 66 66) attr. Michael Weisse, c. 1480–1534.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Be seated

THE WORD

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 61:1-3, 10,11

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion-- to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.

I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

PSALM OF THE DAY

PSALM 71

Refrain



Bless-ed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.

P: In you, O LORD, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame.

C: **Rescue me and deliver me in your righteousness;
turn your ear to me and save me.**

P: Be my rock of refuge, to which I can always go;
give the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.

C: **Since my youth, O God, you have taught me,
and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds.**

P: Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, O God,

C: **till I declare your power to the next generation,
your might to all who are to come.**

C: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son And to the Holy Spirit,
As it was in the beginning, Is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

REFRAIN

NEW TESTAMENT

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24

Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Do not put out the Spirit's fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil.

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

P: We light three Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Light of the world.
He came to defeat the prince of darkness.

C: **We remember Jesus who came in answer to his people's prayers.
John proclaimed him the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.**

P: We hear his call to see the light.

C: **We light three Advent candles as a sign of our trust and confidence.**

Three candles are lit.

P: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

C: **Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

Stand

GOSPEL

JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28

There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

Now this was John's testimony when the Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Christ. "

They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not."

"Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No."

Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the desert, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

Now some Pharisees who had been sent questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"

"I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. He is the one who comes after me, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie."

This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P: This is the gospel of our Lord.

C: **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has
 2 What the fa - thers most de - sired, What the
 3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's
 4 Wel - come, O my Sav - ior, now! Joy - ful,
 5 Crush for me the ser - pent's head That, set



tru - ly kept his word And at last to
 proph - ets' heart in - spired, What they longed for
 help - er, Ja - cob's Lord— Him of two - fold
 Lord, to you I bow. Come in - to my
 free from doubt and dread, I may cling to



us did send Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.
 man - y a year Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.
 race be - hold— Tru - ly came, as long fore - told.
 heart, I pray; Oh, pre - pare your - self a way.
 you in faith, Safe - ly kept through life and death,

6 And, when you shall come again
 As a glorious king to reign,
 I with joy may see your face,
 Freely ransomed by your grace.

*The Best Christmas Exchange**Stand**After the sermon, the congregation sings:*

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from your pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re-store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
 tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it. A - men.

OFFERING

Financial offerings are a regular, proportionate, and joyful response of love by members of a Christian congregation. Our offerings are given to further the work of God's kingdom here at Abiding Word and around the world through the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. If you are a guest, please do not feel obligated to support our ministry.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

O God, Shepherd of Israel, through all the long years of promise you led your people, nourishing and sustaining them with the hope of deliverance. Grant us also patient faith in your precious promises that we may rejoice in your salvation and give you thanks.

O Father, we your children bring our prayers and petitions with thanksgiving. According to the necessities of each of us, send such deliverance as will renew us in body and spirit. Forgive our sins and blot out all our iniquities.

Let your Holy Spirit descend upon us that our faith may not fail in that day when our Lord will come again to bring to light the hidden things of darkness and make known the thoughts of the heart.

Bless all who are gathered here this day in the fellowship of faith. Be with those of our number who are sick or under any affliction of body, mind or spirit. Comfort them that they may, through their trials, learn of your gracious power and readiness to help in every time of need.

Special prayers of thanksgiving or intercession may be spoken here

Finally, endow us all with your special graces, that we may daily show forth the light of your Name, and the divine excellencies of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord. All these things, and whatever else you see that we need, we ask in his name. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: **It is good and right so to do.**

P: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *Sanctus*



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD - *Angus Dei*



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us your peace. A - - men.

DISTRIBUTION

Please exit your pew from the right as you come forward for communion. Six communicants will come to the railing at a time (3 on the left railing; 3 on the right). Please stand in front of the first pew until the bread and wine are at the railing. Exit the railing to your left and dispose of the cups.

THANKSGIVING

Stand

SONG OF SIMEON - *Nunc Dimittis*



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

P: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: **And his mercy endures forever.**

P: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

C: **Amen.**



1 Je - sus, your blood and right - eous - ness My beau - ty
 2 Bold shall I stand in that great day— Who can a
 3 Lord, I be - lieve your pre - cious blood, Which at the
 4 Lord, I be - lieve were sin - ners more Than sands up -
 5 When from the dust of death I rise To claim my



are, my glo - rious dress; Mid flam - ing worlds, in
 word a - gainst me say? Ful - ly through you ab -
 ver - y throne of God For - ev - er will for
 on the o - cean shore, You have for all a
 man - sion in the skies, E'en then this shall be



these ar - rayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.
 solved I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.
 sin - ners plead, For me— e'en for my soul— was shed.
 ran - som paid, For all a full a - tone - ment made.
 all my plea: Je - sus has lived and died for me.

6 Jesus, be worshiped endlessly!
 Your boundless mercy has for me,
 For me and all your hands have made,
 An everlasting ransom paid.

Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700–60, abr.; tr. John B. Wesley, 1703–91, alt.
 Tune: ST. CRISPIN (LM) George J. Elvey, 1816–93.